to the parties if Tahsildars or, failing them, Deputy Tahsildars could be invested with power to try and dispose of them.

Reply.—This is impracticable and opposed to the observation made on Saturday that the Tahsildars are overworked officers. Though small cause suits are tried summarily and no appeal is allowed in them, still a knowledge of law and procedure is indispensable for their satisfactory disposal, and, in the few instances in which revenue officers have been invested with the power now proposed, the system has been found not to work well. Government think the suggestion is retrograde and cannot be adopted.

83. Desirability of issuing processes from courts only to such number of witnesses as could be examined on a single day.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (*Ettumanur*) requested that a rule might be passsed to this effect.

Reply.—There are circulars on the subject and I believe they are being enforced as far as possible. But it is undesirable and impracticable to place any such limit.

84. Empowering monegars to attest affidavits.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer and Mr. Sattanathan Karayalan (*Shencottah*) prayed for monegars or provertikars being authorized to attest affidavits, as the present rule empowering civil and criminal courts to do the same was a source of inconvenience to the parties.

Reply.—The law is contained in section 192 of the Civil Procedure Code. The number of cases in which matters will have to be proved through affidavits is limited and there is a further provision in section 415 of the Criminal Procedure Code as to the filing of affidavits before the High Court. The High Court have the necessary powers in these matters and they will be addressed in view to consider how far the rules can be relaxed.

85. Desirability of laying down rules for regulating the valuation of improvements on properties in connection with civil suits.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai and Mr. K. KochuThomman (*Chengannur*) prayed for some uniform procedure being laid down in this respect.

Reply.—Section 377 of the Civil Procedure Code provides for the

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